Book 3

# The Spiritual Season

## Project Booklet

Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Rajab

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st | Wilādah of Sayyidah Sakīnah (ʿa), daughter of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) |
| 1st | Wilādah of Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa) |
| 3rd | Shahādah of Imām ʿAlī an-Naqī (ʿa) |
| 10th | Wilādah of Imām Muḥammad at-Taqī (ʿa) |
| 13th | Wilādah of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) |
| 15th | Wafāt of Sayyidah Zaynab, daughter of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) |
| 24th | Battle of Khaybar won by Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) |
| 25th | Shahādah of Imām Mūsā al-Kāẓim (ʿa) |
| 27th | Eid al-Biʿthah and Miʿrāj |
| 28th | Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) leaves Medina; Journey to Karbalāʾ begins |

Important dates in Shaʿbān

| | |
|---|---|
| 3rd | Wilādah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) |
| 4th | Wilādah of Ḥaḍrat ʿAbbās, son of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) |
| 5th | Wilādah of Imām Zaynul ʿĀbidīn (ʿa) |
| 13th | Wilādah of Ḥaḍrat ʿAlī al-Akbar, son of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) |
| 15th | Wilādah of Imām Muḥammad al-Mahdī (ʿaj) |

Visit **kisakids.org/collections** for more project booklets,
and go to **kisakids.org/donate** to help us continue our efforts.
Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of those who contributed to this booklet.

**INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:**

al-Islam.org
imamreza.net

SLP Now: Bear Cave Craft
Artists Helping Children: Hearts and Arrow craft
pS Craftistic DIY: Easy Boat Craft

cover: freepik and unsplash

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allah (swt) bless us, our families, and our communities. My tabrīkāt, taḥiyyāt, best wishes, and congratulations to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj), our great marājiʿ and scholars, and to the Muslim ummah on the beginning of the spiritual season, the blessed months of Rajab, Shaʿbān, and Shahr Ramaḍān.

As the spring season marks the regrowth of the plants, the month of Rajab marks the renewal of a person's soul and quest for union with Allah (swt). In this sense, Rajab is the month of reseeding our faith and relationship with Allah (swt). We nourish this seed with spiritual water and sun through various recommended ritual practices, such as fasting, and by following the example of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and his Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). This seed eventually grows into a plant during the month of Shaʿbān. In this month, we continue to grow the plant by nourishing the soul with proper akhlāq and observing our duties towards Allah (swt).

Why do we do this? These actions of renewal are there to prepare us for the upcoming month of Ramaḍān. Shahr Ramaḍān is critical in our quest to reach spiritual perfection and for our salvation as Muslims in the hereafter. For a month of such importance, do we really want to enter it empty handed? Obviously not. We want to enter it spiritually renewed so that we may take our relationship with Allah (swt) to the next level.

A crucial approach to achieve this is by dedicating time during this spiritual season to strengthen family connections. In today's fast-paced world, spending quality time with family can be challenging due to factors like geographical distance or limited participation in community events. These project booklets aim to provide families with spiritually enriching and enjoyable resources, fostering a positive bonding experience. Communities can utilize these booklets to organize entertaining and educational programs for children. I encourage both families and communities to allocate a bit more time with children during this season, seizing the opportunity to cultivate a spiritual atmosphere.

Dear families, strengthen your family bonds so we can strengthen our community bonds. One of the best ways to do this is by staying connected to the local masjid, imambargah, or center, and regularly meeting with fellow community members. These connections will help us become better connected with Allah (swt) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). If we can achieve this, we will be successful, inshāʾAllāh. Let us therefore take advantage of this spiritual season. Let us grow this seed of faith by following the example of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allah's creatures all around the earth, we can become closer to Him inshāʾAllāh.

In honor of these blessed months, we are pleased to launch the Spiritual Season Project Booklet. This booklet includes six lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects will assist in planting the love and importance of these three months in our children. Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network.

We pray that Allah (swt) gives us the tawfīq to fulfill our duties and responsibilities towards our children, the future generation of ambassadors of Islam in this part of the world.

Jazākallāh khayrā and best wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

# The Spiritual Season

**Objective**: Children will learn about the significance of Rajab, Shaʿbān, and Shahr Ramaḍān, also known as the Spiritual Season.

Today is the beginning of a wonderful time of the Islamic year! It is the beginning of the Spiritual Season! This special season includes the months of Rajab, Shaʿbān and Shahr Ramaḍān! Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) once said, "Behold! Rajab is the month of Almighty Allah (swt), Shaʿbān is my month, and Shahr Ramaḍān is the month of my people. Whoever observes fasting on one day of this month [Rajab] will bindingly win the Grand Pleasure of the Lord."[1]

One great act we should try to do during this spiritual season is fast. Fasting doesn't just mean not eating and drinking during the day. We should make more of an effort to avoid doing anything that would make Allah (swt) sad. It can also be spending a little more time doing ʿibādah, or worship. For example, we can read some extra duʿās or sūrahs after our daily ṣalāh.

Besides fasting, there are many other acts of worship that will bring us closer to Allah (swt) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). This spiritual season is a great time to gain Allah's blessings, so let us celebrate this wonderful season! Today, we will be making some Spiritual Season ornaments to decorate our homes to begin this celebration inshāʾAllāh!

1 Shaykh Ḥurr ʿĀmilī, *Wasāʾil ash-Shīʿah*, Vol. 7, P. 352, Ḥadīth 9.

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## Spiritual Season Decor

**Suggested Ages:** 5+

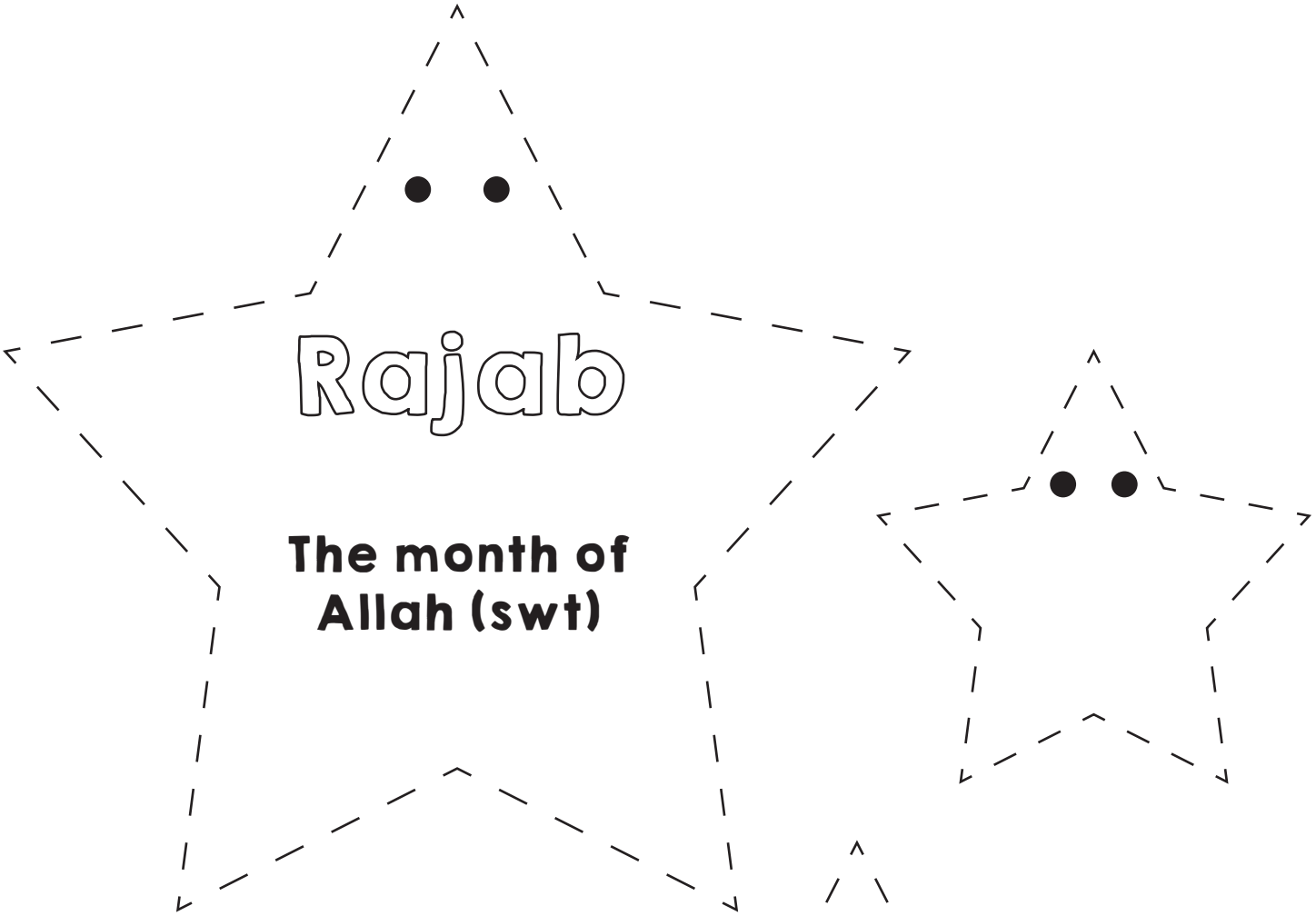
**Time:** 40 min

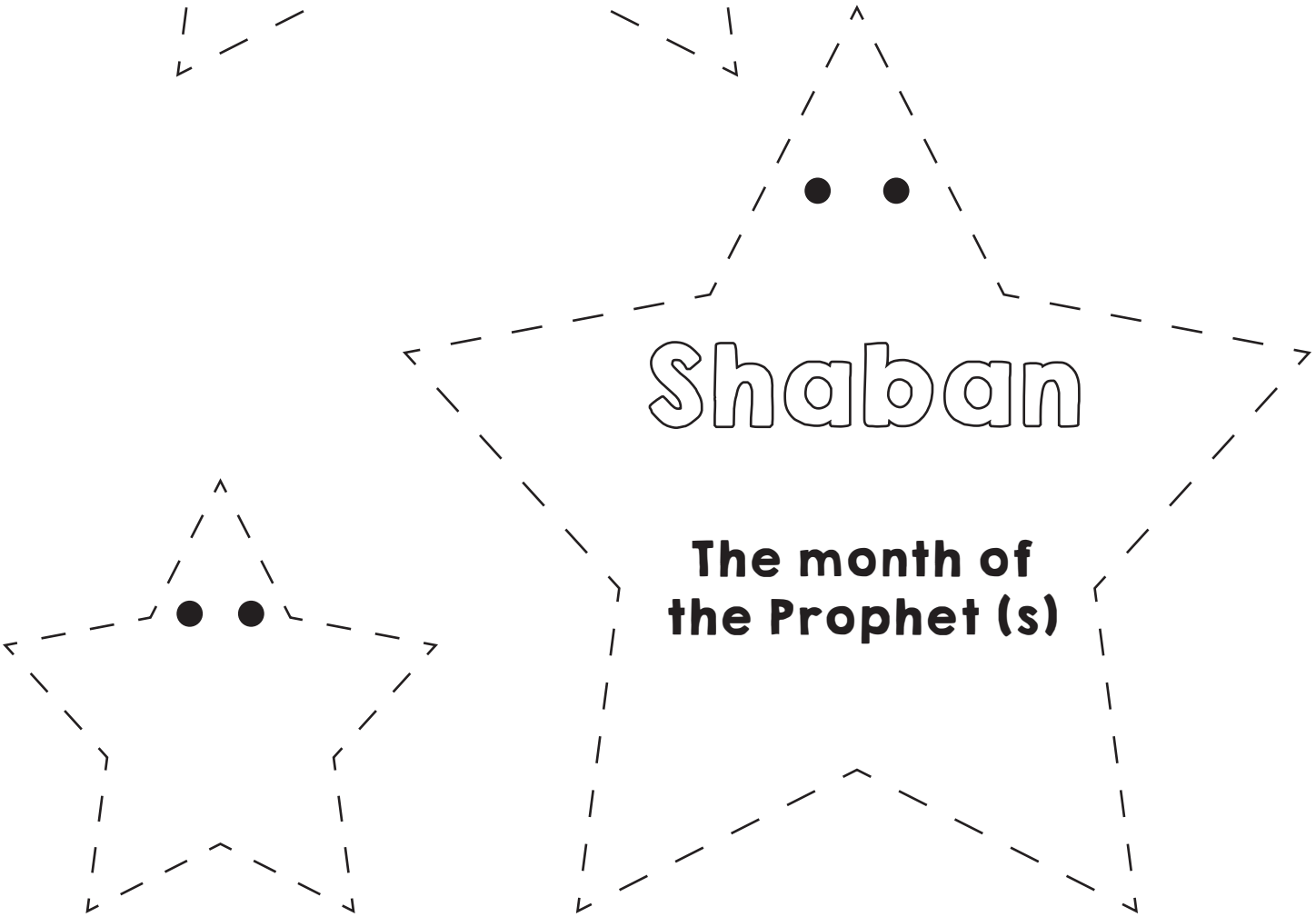
**Materials:**

- Ornament template
- Optional: colored paper
- Thin string/thread
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors

**Procedure:**

1. Color and decorate the stars however you like (optional: you can make the stars from colored paper instead).
2. Cut out the stars.
3. Carefully punch a hole through the small circles at the top of each star.
4. Thread some string through the holes in the stars. Weave the string in through the first hole and out through the other.
5. Be sure to keep the stars in order: Rajab, then Shaʿbān, then Shahr Ramaḍān. You can add the smaller stars in between the bigger stars, or however you like.
6. Tie a knot on either end of the string or thread to keep the stars from slipping off.


Rajab
The month of
Allah (swt)


Shaban
The month of
the Prophet (s)

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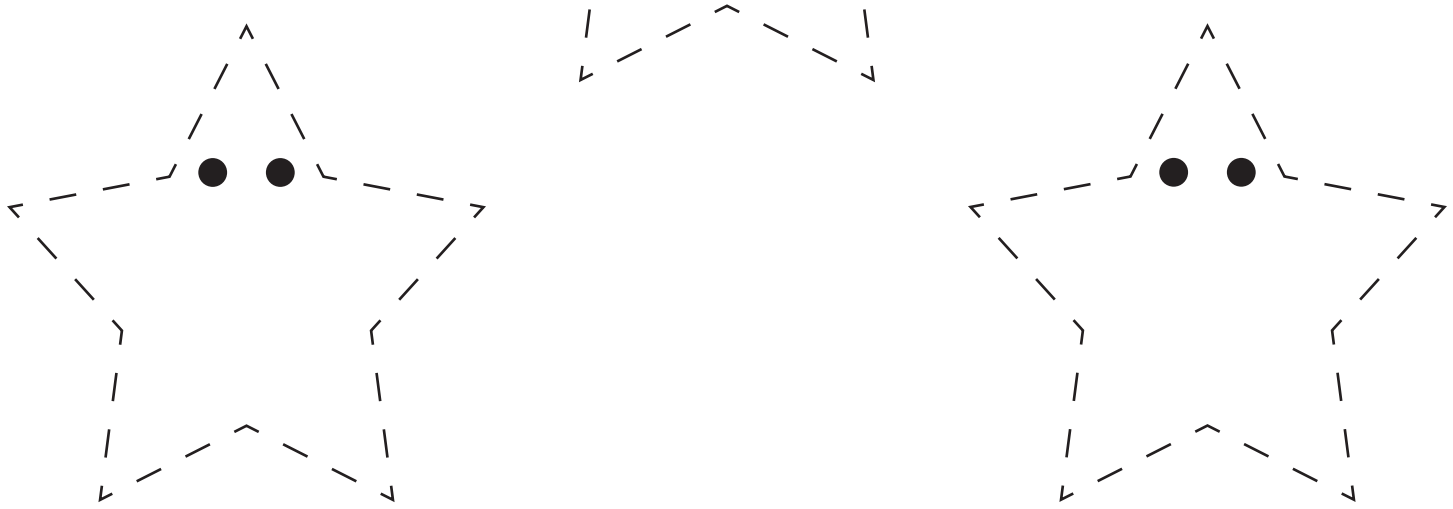
# Shahr Ramadan

**The month of the Muslims**



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# The Young Imām (ʿa)

**Objective**: Children will learn about Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) and how the knowledge and status of Imāmah is not dependent on his age.

One of the many special occasions we celebrate in Rajab is the wilādah of our 9th Imām, Imām Muḥammad at-Taqī al-Jawād (ʿa), who was born on the 10th of Rajab. Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) was only a young boy when he became the Imām. This shows that an Imām does not have to be a certain age to have knowledge or to guide people. When an Imām has to take the responsibility of Imāmah, they have the divine help from Allah (swt).

One day, the evil ruler Maʾmūn was riding through the town with his hunting party. When the people saw this, they all scattered and hid because they did not want to get in the way of Maʾmūn and his soldiers. All of the children playing on the street ran away, except one child. When Maʾmūn saw him, he stopped and asked the young boy why he didn't run away like the other children. The young boy replied that the road was wide enough for everyone and that he was not doing anything wrong by staying there. Hearing this, Maʾmūn asked the boy who he was, and found out that the boy was Imām al-Jawād (ʿa)! Maʾmūn had just come back from hunting and secretly held a fish in his hand. He asked the Imām (ʿa) if he could guess what was in his hand. Imām al-Jawad (ʿa) replied, "Allah (swt) has created tiny fish in the river. These fish are hunted by the hawks of the kings, and the descendants of the Prophets reveal the secrets."[1]

Even as a young boy, Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) showed he had knowledge of the unseen! Today we are going to make a project to remember young Imām al-Jawād's knowledge.

1 Irbilī, ʿAlī ibn ʿĪsā, *Kashf al-Ghummah fī Maʿrifat al-Aʾimmah*, Vol. 3, P. 187.

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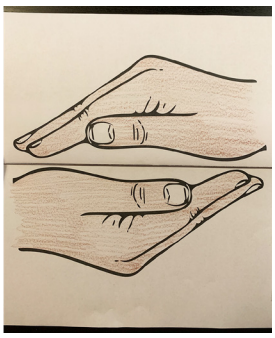
## Hidden Fish

**Suggested Ages:** 5+

**Time:** 40 min

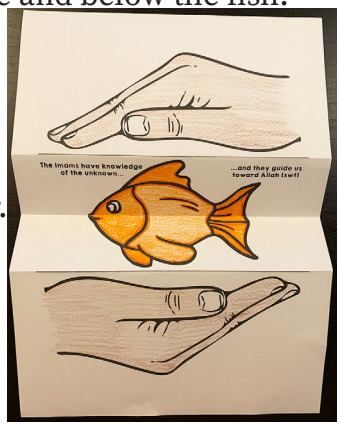
**Materials:**

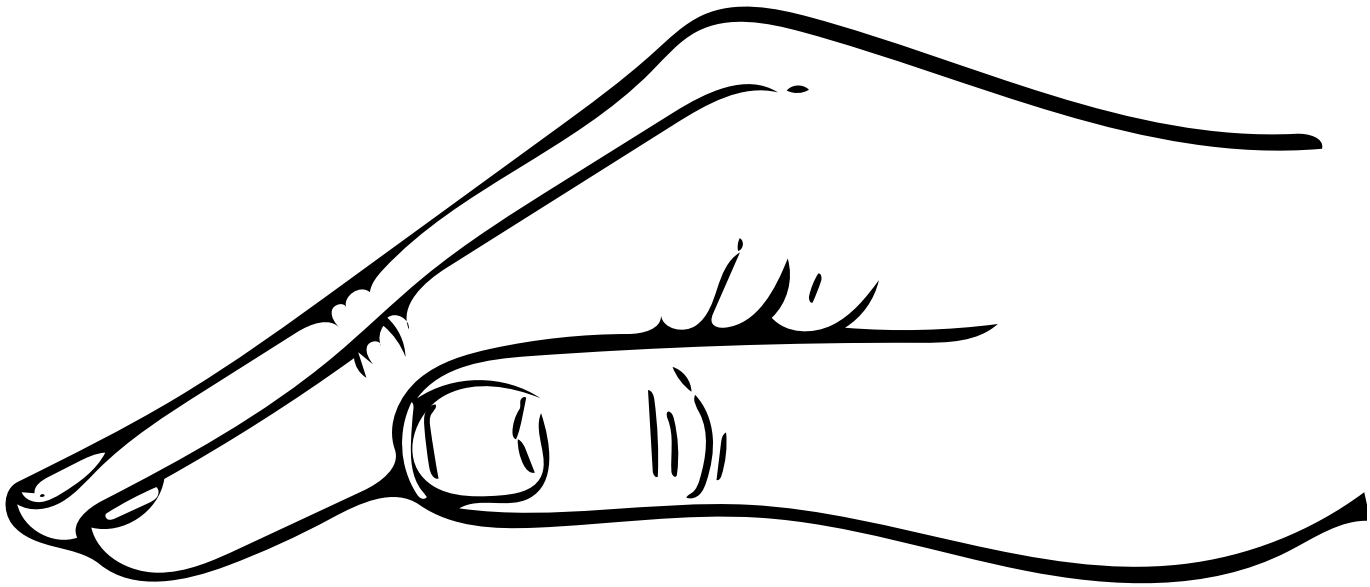
- Hand and fish template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers



**Procedure:**

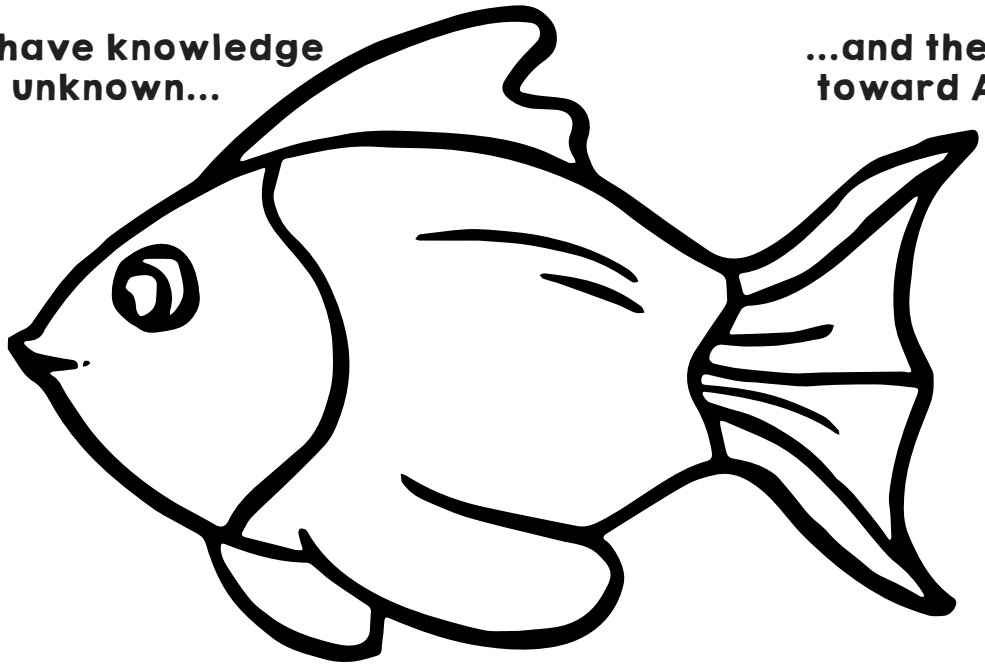
1. Color and decorate the hands and the fish images however you like.
2. Fold the paper in half widthwise with the images inside. Open the fold.
3. Fold the paper along the 2 lines above and below the fish. This should make the paper look like a capital T with the image of the fish hidden in the fold.
4. Finally, hold the paper from the top and the bottom and extend the paper. This will show the fish in between the two hands.
5. You can color and decorate the rest of the craft however you like.

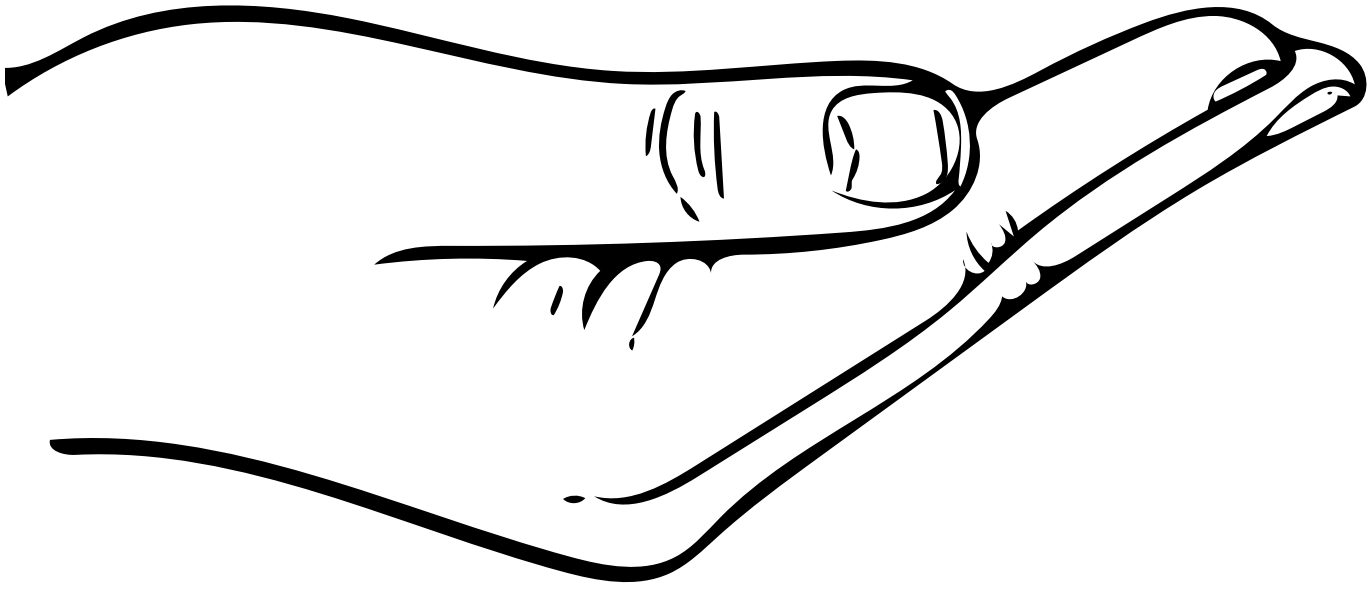




The Imams have knowledge of the unknown...

...and they guide us toward Allah (swt)





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# Trees Without Fruit

**Objective**: Children will learn about Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) and what he says about knowledge.

The spiritual season is a great time to learn more about Islam in order to get closer to Allah (swt). During this time, one great act we can do is gain knowledge, and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) are the best people to learn from. On the 13th of Rajab, in honor of our 1st Imām, Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), let us take a look at what he has said about knowledge: "Knowledge without action is like trees without fruit."[1]

From this ḥadīth, we can see how acquiring knowledge is not enough. It is also important, in fact vital, to act upon whatever we learn. We should use whatever we learn to ponder and reflect, see other perspectives, be compassionate, and maintain good akhlāq. Not only does this allow us to progress in our worldly pursuits, but also to succeed in the hereafter.

We should gain as much knowledge as we can, and always learn new things. Some ways we can learn are going to school, listening to lectures, and reading books. Today, we will be making some bookmarks that can remind us to pair the knowledge we gain with action, inshāʾAllāh!

1 Āmidī, Abul Fatḥ, *Ghurar al-Ḥikam*, Ḥadīth #6958.

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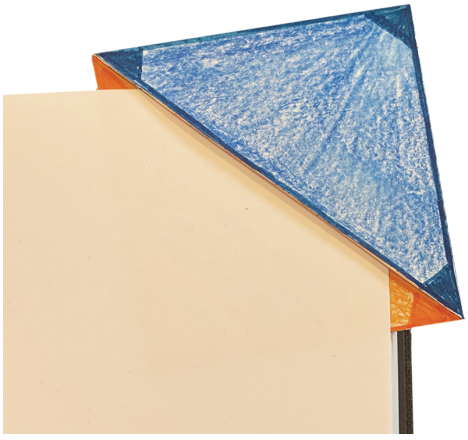
## Corner Bookmark

**Suggested Ages:** 5+

**Time:** 40 min

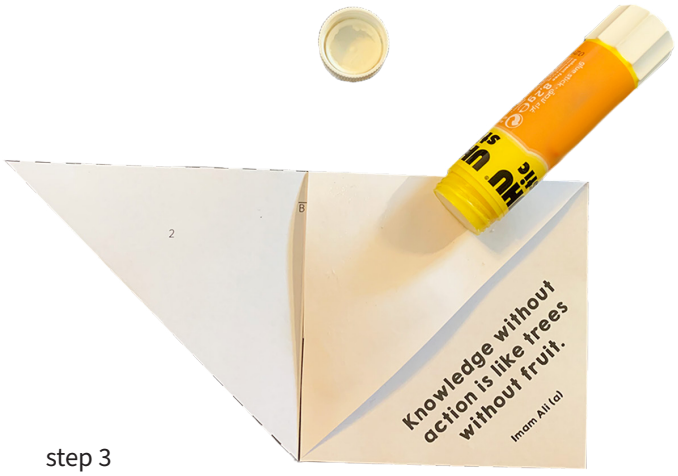
**Materials:**

- Bookmark template
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Crayons/colored pencils



**Procedure:**

1. First, cut out the bookmark template by cutting all along the dotted lines.
2. Fold at the lines labeled "A" and "B" over the square. Follow the arrows.
3. Then, glue the triangle flap numbered 2 on top of the triangle flap numbered 1. This should create a pocket with the text showing.
4. Color and decorate the square bookmark however you like.
5. Use this by fitting the pocket of the bookmark on the corner of the page in your book.


2
B
Knowledge without action is like trees without fruit.
Imam Ali (a)

step 3

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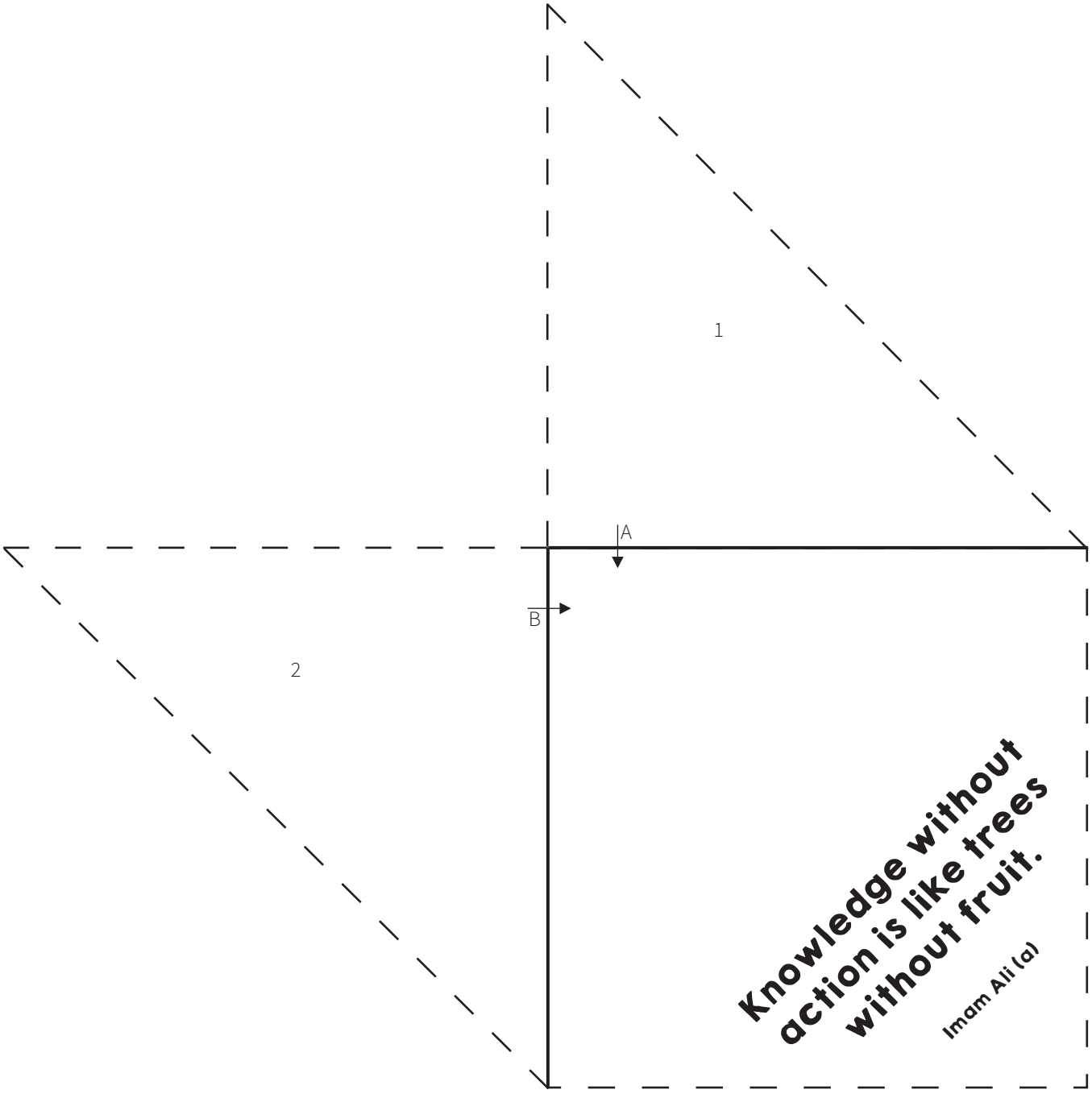
1
A
B
2
Knowledge without action is like trees without fruit.
Imam Ali (a)

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# Beginning of the Divine Mission

**Objective**: Children will learn about the event of Biʿthah, when our Noble Prophet (ṣ) began his prophethood.

There is a very auspicious day in the month of Rajab. Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) said, "There is a night in Rajab, which carries for people goodness that is more beneficial to them than whatever is exposed to sunlight. It is the twenty-seventh night, in the morning of which the Noble Prophet's Divine Mission started. Verily, one who does acts of worship on this night will have the same reward as one who has worshiped Almighty Allah for sixty years."[1] This shows that there is a lot of thawāb for doing worship on the night of 27th Rajab. On this day, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) announced his prophethood, known as Biʿthah.

When the Prophet (ṣ) first wanted to share the news of his prophethood with everyone, he asked the people, "O people! Will you believe me if I tell you that your enemies intend to ambush you at dawn or at night?" They all answered, "We have not heard a lie from you throughout your life." The Noble Prophet (ṣ) said, "O people! I warn you to fear Allah's punishment. Save yourself from the fire. My position is the same as that of the guard who sees the enemy from afar and warns his people of the danger of their enemies."[2]

The Noble Prophet (ṣ) had long established his honest and trustworthy character to the people, so when he made this announcement of prophethood, they knew he was telling the truth. Despite this, some people still did not believe and trust him, and they went astray. We should trust whatever our Prophet (ṣ) and Imāms (ʿa) have taught us because what they say comes from Allah (swt). Today, we will be making a project in honor of the Noble Prophet's divine mission.

1 Shaykh ʿAbbās Qummī, *Mafātīḥ al-Jinān*, P. 148.
2 Ṭabarī, Muḥammad, *Tārīkh aṭ-Ṭabarī*, Vol. 3, P. 1170.

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## Cave Craft

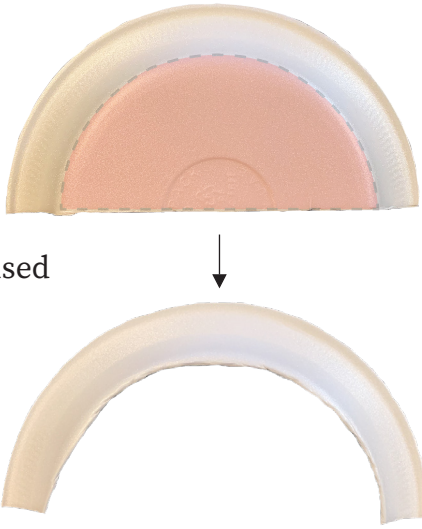
**Suggested Ages:** 5+

**Time:** 40 min

**Materials:**

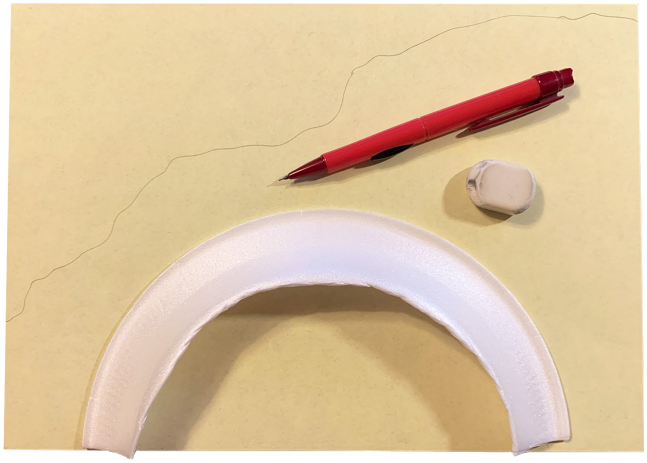
- Craft cutouts template
- Blank paper
- Optional: colored paper (different colors)
- Paper plate (about 9 inches)
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

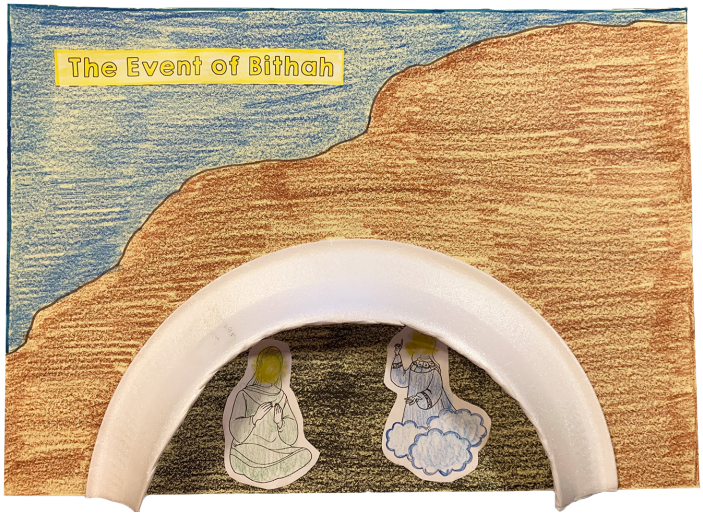
step 4



**Procedure:**

1. Color the cutouts in the template however you like.
2. Cut them out and keep them on the side for now.
3. Cut the paper plate in half to make a half circle.
4. Carefully cut out the middle of the half plate (the bottom of the plate where the food goes). The remaining piece will be used for the entrance of the cave.
5. On the construction paper, draw a mountain. Use the plate piece you cut to mark the placement of the cave.
6. Color the mountain and the inside of the cave (optional: you can use colored paper to make the mountain and cave instead).
7. Now, glue or tape the plate piece to the construction paper at the cave entrance.
8. Glue the cutouts onto the page. The Prophet and the angel should be in the cave.
9. Finish coloring and decorating the craft however you like.





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# The Event of Bithah

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# Arrow of Gossip

**Objective**: Children will learn about Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) and why we should not spread rumors and gossip.

In this Spiritual Season, we have celebrated the birthdays of many Imāms (ʿa). On the 5th of Shaʿbān, we celebrate the wilādah of our 4th Imām, Imām Zaynul ʿĀbidīn (ʿa). He was known for his exceptional ʿibādah, specifically his sujūd. Let's take a look at a story from his life.

Once, a man came to Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) and told him that someone was saying bad things about the Imām (ʿa). The man claimed to be the Imām's friend by telling him this gossip! Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) told the man that he had not heard that person's mean words, and if the man had not told the Imām (ʿa), he never would have known about it. It was as if the person who said those horrible things shot an arrow at the Imām (ʿa) but missed, and then the man who claimed to be the Imām's friend picked up the arrow and hit the target (the Imām (ʿa)).[1]

By telling Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) those mean things, the man spread gossip. Allah (swt) does not like the habit of spreading rumors and gossip, even if they are true. This behavior can really hurt people's feelings, and potentially cause larger conflicts. We should avoid making the same mistake the man made and not spread hurtful things to each other. If we avoid repeating gossip, then eventually it will stop spreading. Today, we will be making a project to remind us not to spread gossip or be unkind.

1 *Imamreza.net* (n.d.). Retrieved December 19, 2023, from https://www.imamreza.net/old/eng/imamreza.php?id=5537

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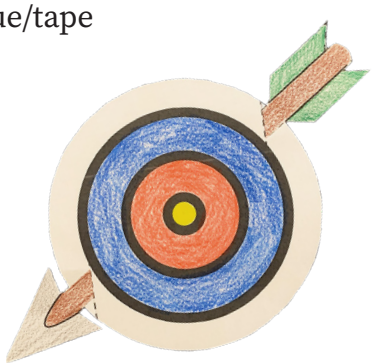
## Target and Arrow

**Suggested Ages:** 5+

**Time:** 40 min

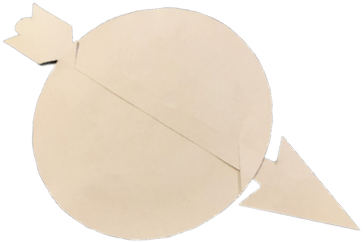
**Materials:**

- Target and arrow template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

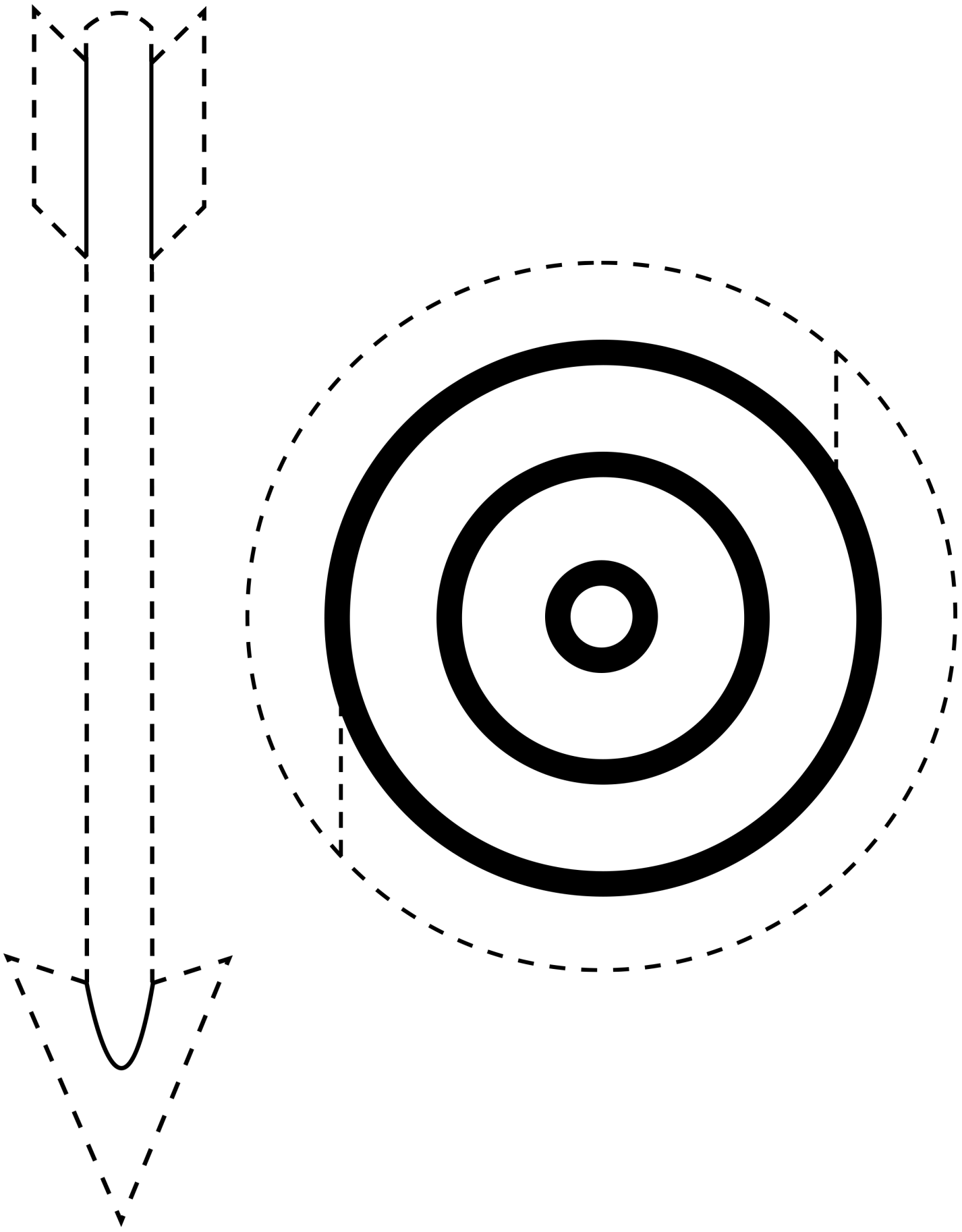


**Procedure:**

1. Color and decorate the target and arrow however you like.
2. Cut out the target and arrow.
3. Locate the two dotted lines on the target. Cut along each dotted line to make small slits. The cuts should only be the length of the dotted line.
4. Now flip the target over so that the lines are face down. Slide the tail of the arrow through the top slit and the head of the arrow through the bottom slit. Make sure the arrow is also face down, so that the colored side shows on the front.



5. Then, carefully tape or glue the arrow down securely on the back.
6. Turn the target back over. It should look like the arrow is piercing through the target.



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# Praying for His Reappearance

**Objective**: Children will learn about Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj) and the importance of praying for his reappearance.

On the 15th of Shaʿbān, we celebrate the wilādah of our Imām, Imām Muḥammad al-Mahdī (ʿaj). He is the 12th Imām, the last Imām, and he is still alive today! By Allah's miracle, he has been alive for so many years, and will one day come to bring peace and justice to the world, and to lead and guide us.

We should remember our Imām (ʿaj) every day. When we wake up in the morning, the first thing we should do is send our salām to him. We should take out ṣadaqah for his safety regularly. One great act we should try to do during the spiritual season is pray for Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj) to return. The Imām (ʿaj) himself has said, "Pray for my reappearance because in it lies your salvation."[1]

Salvation means saving from harm and risks. When we pray for the Imām (ʿaj) to reappear and guide us toward Allah (swt), we are praying for our safety and success, not just in this life, but in the hereafter also. We want to be safe from all kinds of troubles, especially anything that could take us farther away from Allah (swt) and our Imām (ʿaj). The spiritual season is the best time to make these prayers, because it is the season of Allah's blessings! Today, we will be making some artwork to decorate our homes, and to remind us to pray for Imām al-Mahdī's reappearance, inshāʾAllāh!

1 Shaykh Ṣadūq, *Kamāl ad-Dīn*, Ch. 45, Ḥadīth 4.

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# Ship of Salvation

**Suggested Ages:** 5+

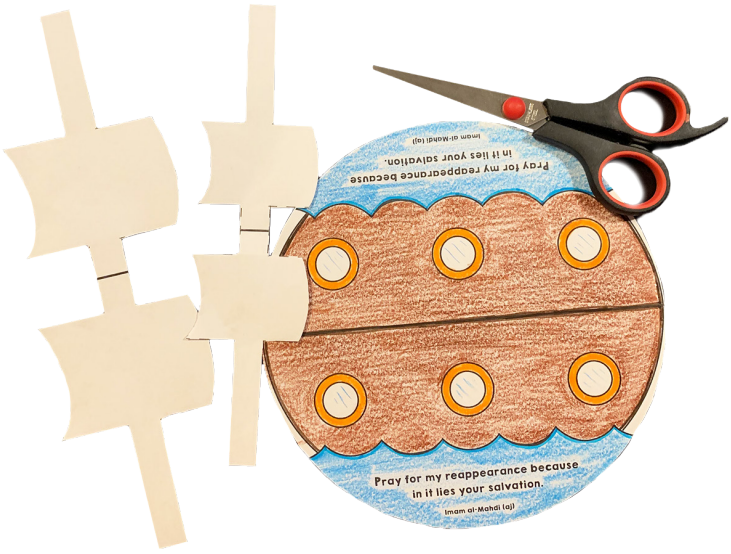
**Time:** 40 min

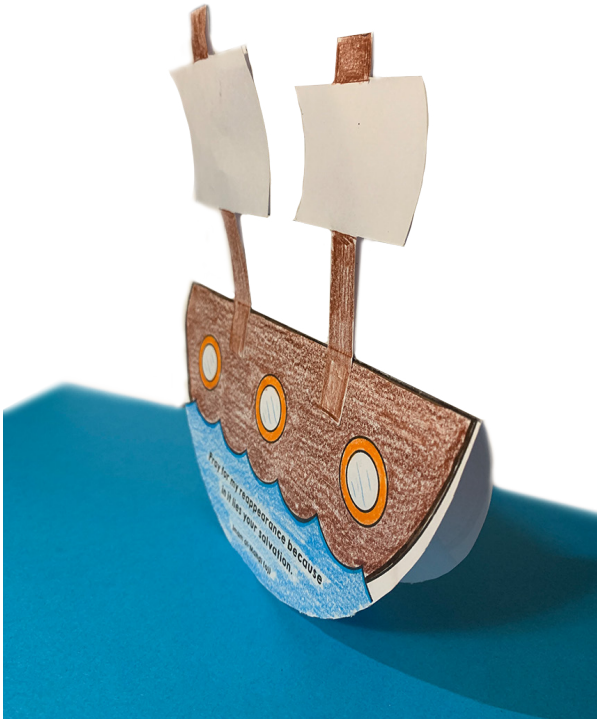
**Materials:**

- Ship template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

**Procedure:**

1. Color and decorate the pieces of the template however you like.
2. Cut out the pieces from the template.
3. Fold the circle in half along the solid line. The image of the ship should be showing.
4. Fold each sail piece in half along the solid black line.
5. Glue one end of the sail piece to one side of the ship. Flip it over and glue down the other end. Do this for both sail pieces.
6. Finish coloring and decorating the craft however you like.
7. Carefully stand the folded ship up on a flat surface with the fold slightly open. You should be able to rock it back and forth, as if it is floating in the water.



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Pray for my reappearance because
in it lies your salvation.

Imam al-Mahdi (aj)

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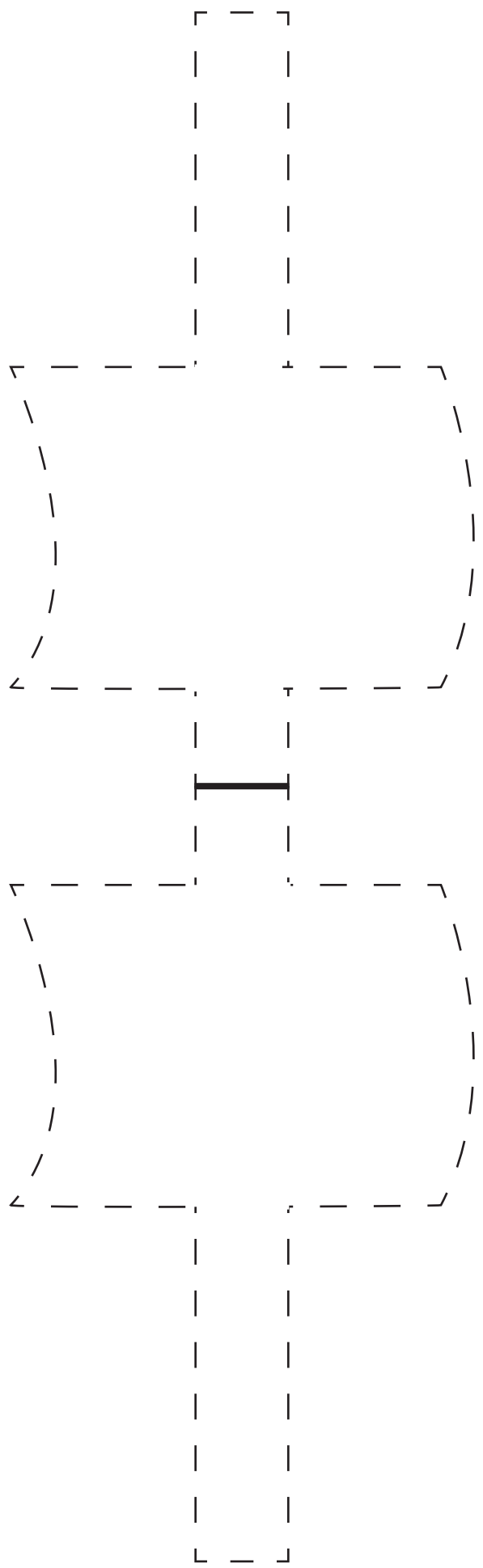

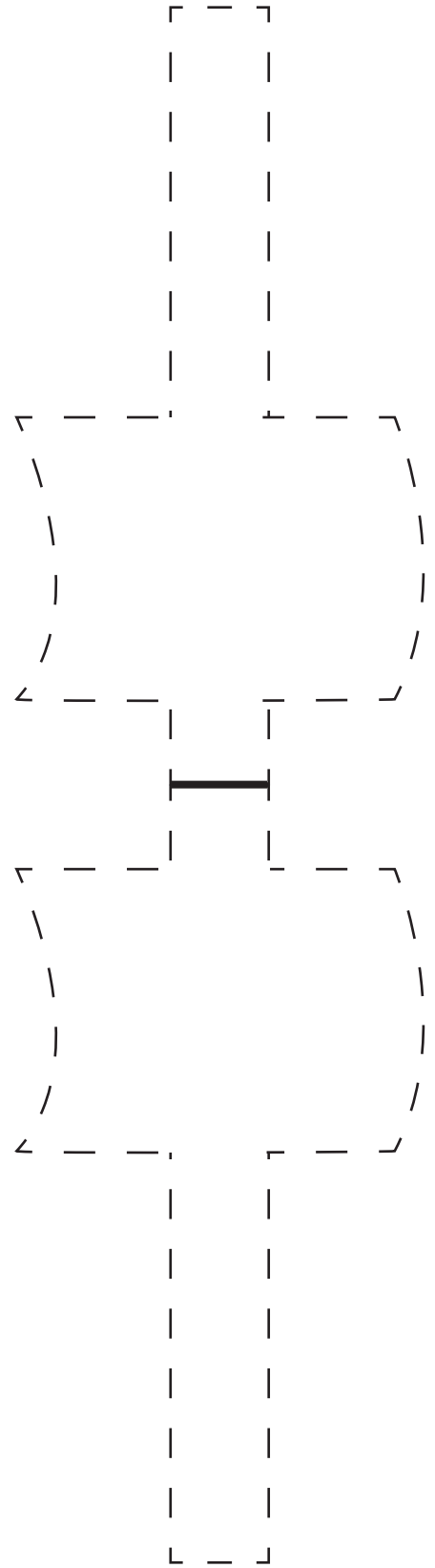

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# AL-KISA FOUNDATION

UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY